Application No. 10/621,264
Election and Amendment dated April 21, 2008
Response to Office Action dated March 21, 2008

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of performing image processing using image data generated by an image generator and image generation record information that is associated with the image data and that includes at least supplementary light source flash information at the time of generation of the image data, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

judging whether to execute image quality adjustment processing on the basis of the supplementary light source flash information contained in the image generation record information; and

~~when~~ <u>in case</u> it is judged to execute the image quality adjustment processing, executing the image quality adjustment processing to adjust the image data ~~such~~ <u>so</u> that variation in brightness values is minimized in a highest value range within an entire possible range for brightness values represented by the image data.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein the image quality adjustment ~~step~~ includes ~~the steps of~~:

judging, on the basis of the supplementary light source flash information contained in the image generation record information, whether there was illumination by the supplemental light source at the time of generation of the image data is made, and

executing the image quality adjustment processing ~~when~~ <u>in case</u> a judgment (a) to the effect that "there was illumination by the supplemental light source at the time of generation of the image data" is realized.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2 wherein the image generation record information further includes information relating to a distance between a subject and the image generator of the image data at the time of generation of the image data, and

the image quality adjustment ~~step~~ includes ~~a step~~ <u>performing a process</u> wherein

regardless of realization of the judgment (a), ~~when~~ <u>in case</u> a judgment (b) to the effect that "the distance from the subject is not within a first predetermined close range" is realized, execution of the image quality adjustment processing is halted, or a degree of brightness value adjustment in the image quality adjustment processing is reduced.

Application No. 10/621,264
Election and Amendment dated April 21, 2008
Response to Office Action dated March 21, 2008

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 3 wherein the image generation record information further includes information relating to quantity of light of the supplemental light source at the time of generation of the image data, and

the image quality adjustment ~~step~~ includes ~~a step of~~ adjusting the first predetermined close range at least on the basis of the quantity of light.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 3 wherein the image generation record information further includes information relating to aperture value of the image generator at the time of generation of the image data, and

the image quality adjustment ~~step~~ includes ~~a step of~~ adjusting the first predetermined close range at least on the basis of the aperture value.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 3 wherein the image generation record information further includes information relating to sensitivity of an optical circuit of the image generator at the time of generation of the image data, and

the image quality adjustment ~~step~~ includes ~~a step of~~ adjusting the first predetermined close range at least on the basis of the optical circuit sensitivity.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2 wherein the image generation record information further includes information relating to quantity of light of the supplemental light source at the time of generation of the image data, and

the image quality adjustment ~~step~~ includes ~~a step~~ performing a process wherein regardless of realization of the judgment (a), ~~when~~ in case a judgment (c) to the effect that "the quantity of light is not within a second predetermined range" is realized, execution of the image quality adjustment processing is halted, or a degree of brightness value adjustment in the image quality adjustment processing is reduced.

Application No. 10/621,264
Election and Amendment dated April 21, 2008
Response to Office Action dated March 21, 2008

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 2 wherein the image quality adjustment ~~step~~ includes ~~a step~~ performing a process wherein regardless of realization of the judgment (a), ~~when~~ in case a judgment (d) to the effect that "size of an area of linked pixels having brightness above a first predetermined brightness value in the image data is larger than a predetermined threshold value" is realized, execution of the image quality adjustment processing is halted, or a degree of brightness value adjustment in the image quality adjustment processing is reduced.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein the image generation record information further contains information relating to quantity of light of the supplemental light source at the time of generation of the image data, and

the image quality adjustment ~~step~~ includes ~~a step of~~ adjusting a degree of brightness value adjustment in the image quality adjustment processing at least on the basis of the quantity of light.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein the image generation record information further contains information relating to a distance between a subject and the image generator at the time of generation of the image data, and

the image quality adjustment ~~step~~ includes ~~a step of~~ adjusting a degree of brightness value adjustment in the image quality adjustment processing at least on the basis of distance from the subject.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein the image generation record information further includes information relating to aperture value of the image generator at the time of generation of the image data, and

the image quality adjustment ~~step~~ includes ~~a step of~~ adjusting a degree of brightness value adjustment in the image quality adjustment processing at least on the basis of the aperture value.

Application No. 10/621,264
Election and Amendment dated April 21, 2008
Response to Office Action dated March 21, 2008

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein the image generation record information further includes information relating to sensitivity of an optical circuit of the image generator at the time of generation of the image data, and

the image quality adjustment ~~step~~ includes ~~a step of~~ adjusting a degree of brightness value adjustment in the image quality adjustment processing at least on the basis of the sensitivity.

Claim 13 (Original): A method according to claim 1 wherein a target area of processing targeted for the image quality adjustment processing includes a first type area of linked maximum brightness pixels having maximum possible brightness value.

Claim 14 (Original): A method according to claim 13 wherein a target area of processing targeted for the image quality adjustment processing further includes a second type area meeting a specific condition, situated in the vicinity of the first type area.

Claim 15 (Original): A method according to claim 14 wherein the specific condition includes at least a condition (e) to the effect that "the area is composed of pixels whose shortest distance from the first type area is equal to or less than a first predetermined distance".

Claim 16 (Original): A method according to claim 14 wherein the specific condition includes at least a condition (f) to the effect that "the area is an area composed of pixels whose brightness value is equal to or greater than a second predetermined brightness value, and is an area linked to the first area".

Claims 17-21 (Canceled).

Application No. 10/621,264
Election and Amendment dated April 21, 2008
Response to Office Action dated March 21, 2008

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): An image processing device for performing image processing using image data generated by an image generator and image generation record information that is associated with the image data and that includes at least flash information for a supplementary light source at the time of generation of the image data, the image processing device ~~comprises~~ comprising:

an image quality adjuster that, on the basis of flash information for the supplementary light source included in the image generation record information, makes a judgment as to whether to execute image quality adjustment processing; and ~~when~~ in case it is judged to execute the image quality adjustment processing, executes image quality adjustment processing to adjust the image data ~~such~~ so that variation in brightness value is minimized in a highest value range within an entire possible range for brightness value represented by the image data.

Claim 23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A computer program product for causing a computer to execute a image data process using image data generated by an image generator and image generation record information that is associated with the image data and that includes at least flash information for a supplementary light source at the time of generation of the image data, the computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

a computer program stored on the computer-readable medium, the computer program comprising:

a first program for causing a computer to judge, on the basis of flash information for the supplementary light source included in the image generation record information, whether to execute image quality adjustment processing; and

a second program for causing the computer to adjust the image data ~~such~~ so that variation in brightness value is minimized in a highest value range within an entire possible range for brightness value represented by the image data, in the event that it is judged to execute image quality adjustment processing.

Claim 25 (Canceled).